

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

# Memorandum

Date: April 6, 2020

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)

Subj: COVID-19 Public Housing Closure Supportive Services for Veteran Families Assistance (VIEWS# 2620164)

To: Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Directors (10N1-23)  
VISN Network Homeless Coordinators (10N1-23)

1. This memorandum is to provide guidance on the availability of Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) resources to assist Veterans participating in Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH). The COVID-19 outbreak has caused many public housing authorities (PHA) to close offices and cease operations. These closed PHAs are not conducting housing quality standards (HQS) inspections, which are required for Veterans to use their HUD-VASH housing choice vouchers.
2. Beginning March 27, 2020, until June 30, 2020, SSVF will modify guidance to allow SSVF grantees to provide rental assistance in addition to security deposits for HUD-VASH Veterans. This will allow Veterans to move into the prospective HUD-VASH unit while awaiting HQS. SSVF may continue to pay rental costs until PHAs resume operations and rental costs can be transitioned to a HUD-VASH housing choice voucher.
3. The SSVF and HUD-VASH programs have developed a referral packet to be used from March 27, 2020 thru June 30, 2020. The packet will allow HUD-VASH staff to request security deposits and rental assistance from SSVF grantees without requiring SSVF providers to conduct face-to-face intake meetings with Veterans. The packet is available on the SSVF website at: <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/>.
4. Veterans receiving SSVF temporary financial assistance for rental assistance and security deposit will be co-enrolled in HUD-VASH. HUD-VASH will remain responsible for housing navigation and ongoing case management. Funding for rental assistance and security deposits is limited and SSVF providers may ask HUD-VASH staff to prioritize referrals for assistance. It is important for VA and SSVF staff to discuss funding capacity and referral process prior to using the packet.

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5. Should you have additional questions, please contact Mr. John Kuhn, National Director, SSVF Program, by email at [JohnKuhn2@va.gov](mailto:JohnKuhn2@va.gov) or Mr. Jesse Vazzano, National Director, HUD-VASH Program, by email at [Jesse.Vazzano@va.gov](mailto:Jesse.Vazzano@va.gov).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danny Graceli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'G'.

for  
Renee Oshinski